

Rockport Ordinance Review Committee

Draft minutes of the 2-12-2021 meeting

In attendance:

Chairman Richard Remsen, Vice Chair Robert Hall, Stephen Smith, Select Board liaison Denise Munger, William Gartley, David Cocky, Mark Haley, Orion Thomas, Mandy Marriner Everett

Absent: Taylor Allen

There was a brief discussion regarding the email that Denise Munger had sent prior to the start of the meeting.

Action – Bob Hall will review and work to incorporate her suggestions into the draft ordinance.

Bob Hall noted two corrections to be made to the committee's 2/05/2021 draft minutes.

MOTION: Richard Remsen moved to adopt the draft 2/05/2021 minutes as amended. David Cocky seconded. Carried 6-0-0

Bob Hall discussed the intentions behind the revision in front of the committee for review. He explained that existing language was moved for clarity, and that he removed the definitions section of the draft for review purposes only as there were no further changes or additions to that section, and that section was no longer being reviewed by the committee.

All sections were renumbered from the previous draft.

The purpose section has not changed.

1102 is existing language that was moved from a different part of the ordinance to this spot for clarity. No new language was added to this section.

1103 section 5 – added language clarifying that the Code Enforcement Officer need not go onto private property to remove signs that violate the ordinance and added a fine structure for those type of violations.

1104 – paraphrased from State of Maine statute. The state of Maine does not regulate content but temporary signs in the ROW are only permitted during certain periods of time during the calendar year and has size standards. This language was added to Rockport's sign ordinance so that it applies to the ROW in Rockport.

1105.2 and 1105.3 – The committee discussed conflicting language between the two sections. 1105.2 references "other than a Town of Rockport ROW" and 1105.3 references signs placed within the ROW which appears to be in conflict with each other.

Action: Bob Hall will replace all references to Town and State ROW with "Public ROW" instead of distinguishing the two.

1105 – Discussion on the administrative decision on behalf of the Town Manager to designate specific locations for temporary signs to protect the line of sight at intersections.

Action: Bob Hall will remove references to specific intersections throughout the ordinance and replace with language allowing for the Town Manager to authorize designations for temporary signs in town to avoid line of sight violations. This language will go to the outside counsel for review and approval prior to going to the voters.

1106- moved around existing language for clarity. Expanded districts as discussed at the 2/05/2021 committee meeting. The Code Enforcement officer informs us that illumination of gas signs is governed by state law and regulations so we do not have to address it.

1106.4 – The word “closed” was added to this section to permit “open and closed” signs at permissible businesses.

Action: Bob Hall will add language stating that “nothing in this section should conflict with State regulations of signs for fuel prices” to avoid future misunderstanding of the application of this ordinance by a future Code Enforcement Officer employed by the town, as suggested by the committee.

1108 – Redundant language was removed

1109 & 1110 – no changes

1111 – Gasoline and Diesel price signs – redundant language was removed. The language referencing the illumination standards is okay as it is.

There was an additional comment regarding 1106 as it states “Internally illuminated signs are prohibited except for the following” and yet 1106.1 is not an exception and can lead to confusion.

Action: Bob Hall will rearrange the language of 1106 for clarity.

New Business:

Future drafts and committee documents will be circulated through the planning office to all committee members.

Select Board Liaison Denise Munger updated the committee on the ongoing Short Term Rental Ordinance drafting. She stated that the Select Board voted to table the Ordinance for the foreseeable future and that it will not appear in front of voter in 2021.

The Ordinance Review committee will wait for guidance from the RES task force and the Economic Development committee before reviewing density changes and issues at the RES site.

Orion Thomas added that he is looking for a digital copy of the Town’s sewer and water lines overlaid with our GIS map. Will Gartley is going to provide him with one.

The committee will review the LUO document for housekeeping and errors and make editing suggestions to MCEDD staff.

Next meeting 2/19/2021 at 4:00 PM.

Adjourned at 4:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Marriner Everett

Adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandy Marriner Everett